

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE BERLIN AIRLIFT GRATITUDE FOUNDATION

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation.

The Berlin Airlift began on June 26, 1948. Hostilities increased between the Soviets and the western Allies over access to the city of Berlin. As a result, the Soviets denied Berlin all access to the western portion of the city that was controlled by the American, British, and French forces. Automobile and railroad transportation, as well as any water traffic, was prohibited leaving the 2.2 million residents of West Berlin helpless.

In response, the western Allies took flight in an effort to airlift food, fuel, raw materials, and other supplies to the hopeful citizens of Berlin. These deliveries soon began reaching 500–700 tons a day in the summer of 1948, and continued to expand throughout the 322-day blockade of Berlin. Persistence paid off as the Soviets lifted the land and water blockade on May 12, 1949, ending the dreadful blockade. It is not surprising that the airlifts continued even after the blockade ended in an effort to build supplies for the needy Berliners.

The Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation and its director, Mr. Heinz-Gerd Reese, have for the past 50 years preserved the memory and achievements of the Allies keeping Berlin free by way of the Berlin Airlift. The Berlin Airlift Gratitude Foundation and its members have provided the families of the 78 victims of the Berlin Airlift with financial assistance since 1959.

They have provided their full support in all Berlin Airlift reunions over the years, not only in Berlin, but all the bases in Germany that supported the Berlin Airlift. They have invited the veterans of the Berlin Airlift to visit Berlin at their expense to commemorate the 50th year of the Berlin Airlift on May 9–13, 1999. The highlight of the reunion will come on May 12, 1999, which is the anniversary of the official ending of the Berlin Airlift.

Through their efforts, they have honored those who served and hopefully enlightened future generations on how precious freedom is, and the sacrifices that must be made to achieve it. The Berlin Airlift Reunion to honor the veterans of the Berlin Airlift is also a tribute to citizens of Berlin for choosing freedom over communism and working under very difficult times and conditions to make the Berlin Airlift the great success that it was.

NORTHWEST INDIANA HISPANIC COORDINATING COUNCIL CELEBRATES ITS 11TH ANNUAL BANQUET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 30, 1999, numerous outstanding Hispanics from Indiana's First Congressional District will be honored for their notable contributions to Northwest Indiana. Several Hispanic students from local high schools as well as individuals and community organizations will be recognized at the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council's 11th Annual Banquet. The Hispanic Coordinating Council consists of several organizations that have committed themselves to improving the quality of life for the Hispanic residents of Northwest Indiana as well as providing an effective avenue for promoting Hispanic interests and their shared cultural heritage.

The students who will receive awards for Outstanding Academic Achievements include: Guillermo Amezcua, Clark High School; Crystal Bannister, Calumet High School; Alejandro Barraza, Thornton Fractional South; Patricia Campos, Andean High School; Veronica Delgado, East Chicago Central High School; Adriana Dominguez, Whiting High School; Angela Espinoza, Indiana Academy; Nicholas Ferrer, Munster High School; Leonarda Gajardo, Bishop Noll High School; Esteban Gonzalez, Emerson School of Visual and Performing Arts; Melissa Hernandez, Morton High School; Linda Hinojosa, Merrillville High School; Adriana Lopez, Hobart High School; Samantha Martinez, Gavit High School; Cassandra Mateo, Portage High School; Amy Mendoza, Lowell High School; Angela Monsivais, Thomas A. Edison Jr.-Sr. High School; Danielle Ontiveros, Valparaiso High School; Eliezer Rolon, Thornton Fractional North; Lisa Russi, River Forest High School; Rebecca Spindler, Hanover Central Sr. High School; and Katharina Velez, Hammond High School.

The students who will receive awards for Outstanding Athletic Achievements include: Vanessa Bustos, Thornton Fractional North; John Cantu, Alex Ramos, and Mark Gonzalez, Hobart High School; Rosalinda Cedano, Bishop Noll High School; Katherine Flores, Calumet High School; Enrique Fontanez III, Portage High School; Rafael Gonzalez, Central High School; Antonio Greppi, Andean High School; Francisco Hernandez, River Forest High School; Paul Navarro, Merrillville High School; Cesar Rodriguez, Whiting High School; Nicholas Rodriguez Gavit High School; Alfonso Salinas III, Hammond High School; Patrick Santana, Thomas A. Edison Jr.-Sr. High school; Ruben Trevino, Munster High School; Alfonso Vargas IV, Morton High School; and Benjamin Ybarra, Clark-Whiting High School.

The Council will also present the President's Award to Lou and Stella Torres. Leonor Velasquez will receive the Cesar Chavez Exemplary Service Award. The Outstanding Family Award will go to Ralph and Thelma Mora. Michael Lopez of East Chicago, Indiana, will receive the Community Service Award for his dedication and contributions to Northwest Indiana. Finally, the Humanitarian Service Award will go to the following organizations: Ameritech, Asociacion Benefica Hijos De Borinquen, National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, and the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Committee of Northwest Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding all of the award recipients chosen by the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council. All of these individuals are most deserving of the Honors bestowed upon them. Moreover, I would like to commend the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council for committing itself to the preservation of the Hispanic culture. Without the contributions of Hispanic-Americans, the rich, diverse, ethnically flavored culture of Northwest Indian would not be complete.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE FAMILY YMCA AND THIS YEAR'S HONOREE, BAYONNE CHIEF OF POLICE, FRANK PAWLOWSKI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bayonne Family YMCA on its Seventh Annual Distinguished Service Awards Cocktail Party and this year's honoree Bayonne Police Chief Mr. Frank Pawlowski.

The Bayonne Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization that has taken the lead in addressing the social needs of the community. By providing essential services such as after-school programs, day care, temporary housing, and summer day camp, the YMCA has provided assistance to those in need or at risk.

Headed by Mr. Joseph Tagliareni, Chairman of the Child Care Program annual fundraiser, and Mr. Alan Russotto, Chairman of the Souvenir Ad Journal, the Bayonne Family YMCA will be hosting its seventh annual awards dinner on April 23. Each year the YMCA highlights the accomplishments of one member of the community for his or her dedication and exemplary leadership. This year the YMCA is honoring Bayonne Police Chief Mr. Frank Pawlowski.

A lifelong resident of Bayonne, Chief Pawlowski has committed himself to the betterment of the community. After serving his country in the United States Army from 1962 to 1964, Chief Pawlowski returned to Bayonne where he began his thirty-four year career with the Police Department. While rising through the ranks, Chief Pawlowski served as Commander of the Detective Bureau, Commander

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of the Juvenile Aid Planning and Training Bureau, Administration Division Commander, and Patrol Division Commander.

Chief Pawlowski is a member of the New Jersey Police Chiefs Association, the National Police Chiefs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and is currently Vice President of the Hudson County Police Chiefs Association. In addition, for his remarkable efforts and commendable achievements, Chief Pawlowski has received two departmental commendations for outstanding police work and two excellent police service awards.

Both the Bayonne Family YMCA and this year's award dinner honoree Chief Pawlowski exemplify leadership and dedication to the Bayonne community. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and the incredible examples set as public servants, I am very happy to honor and congratulate the Bayonne Family YMCA and Chief Pawlowski.

A TRIBUTE TO O. LEWIS HARRIS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to O. Lewis Harris on the occasion of his 20th Anniversary as the Executive Director of the Forest Hills Community House.

Lewis Harris joined the Forest Hills Community House in its fourth year of operation. With a small budget and staff, he worked with the agency board, community leadership and elected officials to define the service role and mission for the organization, a task that continues to this day. A strong believer in community and coalition building, Lew Harris quickly became involved with Community Board #6 and was appointed as a member in the spring of 1979.

Lew Harris' strong interest and focus on community service led him to join the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare, the Queens Interagency Council for Aging, The Non-Profit Coordinating Committee of New York; The Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, and the New York City Coalition for the Aging on whose Boards of Directors he continues to serve.

Under Lew Harris' leadership, the Forest Hills Community House has developed a broad array of services for people of all ages. Today, the Forest Hills Community House operates more than thirty-five programs through nineteen different locations in Queens and provides services to more than 15,000 people annually. In the last twenty years, the Forest Hills Community House has gained a reputation for developing innovative and high quality services. Several Community House programs have also been identified as models for replication throughout New York City and beyond.

O. Lewis Harris has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those with whom he has come into contact. Through his dedicated efforts, he has helped improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of his many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to O. Lewis Harris on the occasion of his 20th Anniversary as the Executive Director of the Forest Hills Community House.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE LOMPOC VALLEY CENTER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the opening of the Allan Hancock College Lompoc Valley Center in Lompoc, CA. For years Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley have been in need of a permanent site for a campus and now that need has become a reality.

The Lompoc Valley Center of Allan Hancock College will serve 2,000 students and will offer courses in the sciences, business, technology, and the fine arts. Students will work in computer labs networked with fiber optic cable and will learn in classrooms that have multimedia presentation systems. The center also includes a high-tech computer graphics and animation lab. As we all know, the jobs of the 21st century will demand high-tech and computer related skills. Allan Hancock has the resources and the expertise to teach these important skills, so that students, regardless of age, can take on quality, well-paying jobs on the central coast when they graduate.

I am pleased to tell my colleagues that in the spirit of public/private partnerships, almost 80 percent of the onsite construction bids were awarded to local contractors. The developing and building of the center has been a community-based effort which stands as a model for our nation. I commend the countless people who contributed their time, energy, and vision to create this campus.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Allan Hancock College and the people of the central coast to celebrate the opening of the Lompoc Valley Center. I congratulate the college and all who worked tirelessly to establish the center. I wish Allan Hancock College and the Lompoc Valley Center many years of success and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO E. JAMES MONIHAN, USA DIRECTOR TO THE FEDERATION OF WORLD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a hero in the firefighting community. E. James (Jim) Monihan. Jim Monihan is an outstanding, dedicated, and caring Delawarean with an abundance of accomplishments in this field. On behalf of the citizens of the First State, I would like to honor this outstanding individual and extend to him our congratulations on receiving the National Volunteer Fire Council's Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award.

Family, friends and fellow firefighters can now take a moment to truly appreciate the contributions Jim Monihan has brought to the firefighting community. Since moving to Lewes, DE, in 1963, he has proven his ability to advance the quality of fire and emergency

services throughout the country. This dedication to public service is rare among individuals. As President of the Lewes Fire Department, Jim arranged the purchase of nearly \$250,000 in fire apparatus. He also chaired every committee within the department and served as the in-house ambulance instructor of 10 years. He later earned a statewide reputation in Delaware for his service as president and 1st vice president of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association.

These local accomplishments were just the first steps for Jim along his road to success. His next advancement was to become the chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council. During his tenure he orchestrated the growth of the NVFC from 18 states with 130 associate members to 44 delegate States with over 1,500 associate members. For the first time the NVFC received over \$500,000 in Federal grants to help volunteer fire services nationwide. Since retiring as chairman of the NVFC, Jim has committed himself to being the legislative chairman for the NVFC to help devise their policy priorities.

Known for his expertise and excellence in his field, Jim has been asked to provide testimony for numerous congressional committees in support of such issues ranging from the environment to fire prevention. In addition, Jim has served on the Broad of Visitors for the National Fire Academy and has chaired the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations. Currently, Jim serves as the USA Director to the Federation of World Volunteer Firefighters, which helps to unite fire service personnel from over 100 countries. Showing his continued dedication and commitment to his community, Jim still leads the local Junior Firefighter Club activities and still responds to calls today.

Mr. Speaker, I salute E. James (Jim) Monihan for implementing many of the important policies and procedures that help guide fire personnel worldwide today. His selfless commitment to the cause of volunteer firefighters will have a permanent place in Delaware's volunteer fire service history.

The example Jim has set for volunteer firemen is one we hope all future volunteer firemen will strive to emulate. His dedication to the development of fire departments, volunteer and emergency services is truly commendable. As Delaware's Congressman, I would like to personally thank him for a tremendous job well done and for 40 years of exemplary service.

A TRIBUTE TO HEIDI CUYLER, AMBER LARRISON AND SARA TRUDEAU

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding service of three wonderful and gifted young ladies from California's beautiful high desert. Heidi Cuyler, Amber Larrison and Sara Trudeau have made remarkable contributions to the Vista Campana Middle School in Apple Valley as 3-year members of the Associated Student Body (ASB).